

**Great Gonerby Rectory**  
**September 2010**

Dear Friends,

## TIME

Nowadays it seems that everywhere people feel rushed, weighed down by their to-do lists. They have shopping to do, children to rush from swimming lessons to dance to rugby practice to homework. We talk of having no time, lack of time, not enough time, or being out of time. Even the retired say that they have no time. The holidays may have provided a brief respite for those that work but now it's back to the rush.

But isn't God the Lord of time? God created time, and his sovereignty includes night and day, the seasons, all our times, and the end of our lives. Are we saying that God didn't know what he was doing -- that he got it badly wrong when he only made 24 hours in a day and seven days in a week?

What is it in modern society that has made us so busy? There are many reasons, but two major ones have been identified.

The first is -- "over choice". This refers to the stress we feel from having more options than we can handle or actually need. For example, at a basic level, while the wide variety of items in the supermarket can seem a real benefit, does it really matter if I buy the shampoo with the mint and tea tree oil, or the one with the rose and aloe? Having to decide sucks up time and energy -- and I'm only buying shampoo.

On a more significant level is the choice we have with our leisure or "free" time. In our society there is a vast number of things we can do with our time, -- sports, hobbies, skills, voluntary work, DIY, gardening, television, video, computer, e-mail, web surfing, face book, etc. So, because of this increasing number of things we can do, we want and try to do them. Then we take on far too many things. The "over choice" merely breeds frustrated busyness because our time will not expand to accommodate all these options.

The second major factor affecting our use of time is the blurring of boundaries. This is to say that, for many, the distinctions between work life and home life have diminished. Technology allows us to work from home, or to take our work home to a far greater extent than in previous generations. We set up workstations at home. As long as smartphones remain on, we are never out of work's reach. There is no down time in a 24/7 economic world. We cannot set a clear boundary and say that is finished, now it is time for this.

Ultimately, we do only have so much time. Maybe we should plan to use it wiser, determine not to overbook ourselves, and consider what God -- our maker and the maker of time -- wants us to do with our time.

Before it's no time at all.

God Bless,

*Revd. Peter.*